

AIR POUCH

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PRIORITY

(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

SEP 13 1956 1100-EL/8-2056

FROM : Amembassy MOSCOW

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DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

August 20, 1956

DATE

REF :

4000131

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SUBJECT:

Senator Ellender Invited to Visit Rumania Under Auspices of Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Senator Allen J. ELLENDER (Democrat, La.), who returned to Moscow for several hours on August 16 enroute to Alma Ata and Tashkent after touring the Ukraine for ten days, received a call in his hotel room from a representative of the Rumanian Embassy, Duku, who extended an oral invitation to visit Rumania on behalf of the Vice-President of the Rumanian Section of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Avram Bunaciu (phonetic), and its Executive Secretary, Mikhail Muzhik. Upon the Senator's asking when this invitation would be effective, the Rumanian Counsellor, Stefan Duku, replied--"At whatever time is convenient for the Senator". Senator Ellender then explained that he would be travelling in the Far East until returning home in October to spend some time with his constituents before the opening of the new session of Congress in January, and that if it were possible for him to accept the invitation it could only be after Congress adjourns next year. He also suggested that a written invitation be sent to his office so that he might better be able to consider it. To all this Duku nodded affably, and repeated that the invitation stood whenever the Senator wished to avail himself of it. After the Senator had remarked on the hospitable treatment accorded him on his two previous trips to Rumania, the interview terminated.

The invitation to Senator Ellender, while it may have been prompted by reports of his interview with Khrushchev August 6, would appear to stem from the continuing campaign to enhance the prestige of Soviet and Satellite Parliamentary bodies through exchanges of delegations with countries outside the Bloc. This consideration was mentioned to the Senator, who indicated that he had no intention of accepting the invitation under its present auspices.

For the Charge d'Affaires, a.i.

John C. Guthrie

First Secretary of Embassy

State Dept. review completed

Hisham:jp

REPORTER

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